

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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SENATOR CHAMBERS: Madam President and members of the Legislature, "Baron" Tyson is not here but the other day he jestingly said I see this is the get Don Stenberg bill. Members of the Legislature, that is not true. I believe, the earliest article I could find when I had introduced this bill was 1974, and I've offered it periodically down through the years. This is the first time it has gotten to the floor where it's possible to have it debated. It has been advanced from committees before. It has made it to the floor, but it would generally die before there was a chance to discuss it. I have had the question put to me with reference to this bill, is this the first step for saying that other state offices would not be partisan? In other words, would I try to render nonpartisan the Treasurer's Office, the Auditor, and all those others? Even though I don't see a basis in rationality for having those offices partisan, they are not on my screen. The reason I believe the Attorney General's Office is one which should not partake of partisanship is because the Attorney General is the lawyer for the state. The Attorney General should not be beholden to any party. There should be no label this person carries which automatically conjures up the notion or even the possibility that this person is partisan and more beholden to those who got him or her elected than to the majesty, if you let me use that word, of the law. The law, in its administration, should always be impartial. It should be color-blind, gender blind, politics blind. The law should state what conduct is allowable and what conduct is prohibited, and once the Legislature, which passes the laws, has made that declaration, the person who administers it should do so in such a way that whoever comes to a forum where that law is to be applied, such person can genuinely believe from the way the proceedings go that justice was, indeed, blind. Not in the sense of stumbling, fumbling and not able to find its way to an outcome that is proper but, rather, that no cognizance is taken of a person's status, race, or any extraneous consideration. If a person seeks the Attorney Generalship now, he or she must win the nomination of his or her party. This means that only two persons can ultimately be voted on by the public at large for this position. If the job is nonpartisan, then in the primary, any and every lawyer can run, although you don't have to be a lawyer to be the Attorney General in this state. The